

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
Report by the Outreach Subcommittee
May 15, 2003, San Diego, California**

**Status of Stocks & Other Outreach Issues
Recommended Strategies for Improvement**

Subcommittee members: Maggie Raymond (Acting Chair), Dick Gutting, Jim Gilmore (visiting from Bycatch Subcommittee), and Vince O'Shea (advisor).

Status of Fisheries Report

MAFAC recommends that the most appropriate and practical way for NOAA Fisheries to meet the mandate of the M-S Act [Sec. 304 (e)], that is, to "report on the status of fisheries" would be to provide Congress with a report modeled on the NOAA Fisheries 2001 Report ("business report") with an addendum that portrays the status of fisheries, including fisheries that are overfished or approaching an overfished condition. Further, MAFAC recommends that NOAA Fisheries develop and maintain a web-based summary of the status of fisheries as per the example provided to MAFAC (5/13/03) in the "Outreach Strategy and Public Education Campaign". Both the "business report" and the web page should present the data in a format that depicts trends in fisheries, rather than a single year snapshot.

Other Comments and Recommendations

MAFAC supports and commends NOAA Fisheries for responding to MAFAC's past recommendations regarding improving outreach and communication with constituents, and, in particular, the AA's extraordinary efforts to meet face to face with constituents around the country.

MAFAC recommends that NOAA Fisheries provide MAFAC with briefing materials (reports and presentation documents) prior to the meeting. The further in advance such materials are provided, the more responsive and constructive MAFAC can be in providing our comments and suggestions.

MAFAC's Outreach Subcommittee offers itself as a resource to NOAA Fisheries in developing a response to the Pew Oceans Commission report. The members are prepared to travel to Silver Spring, at their own expense, to attend a meeting for that purpose.

MAFAC recommends that the Chairman's transmittal letter regarding the report on an ecosystem based approach to fisheries, should make clear that the report consists of advice to NOAA Fisheries regarding implementation of such an approach, and should not be construed as a recommendation for legislative mandates.
